Lectures on the Conway and Britannia Bridges.—On Thursday evening, the 5th inst., Mr. Edmund Wheeler, C.E., delivered his first lecture "On the History and Construction of the Conway and Britannia Tubular Iron Bridges," before the members of the Literary Society, Islington. After explaining why suspension bridges are but little used for railway traffic, and stating some of the difficulties of applying arched bridges to the requirements of the Chester and Holyhead Railway at Conway and at Bangor, the lecturer showed that past experience in the art of constructing girder or beam bridges had contributed little to the science of such structures as were required to span the Conway River and the Menai Straits. The lecturer gave a digest of a series of experiments conducted by Messrs. Hodgkinson and Fairbairn, at a cost of 6,530*l.*, and occupying eighteen months, prior to the commencement of the tubular bridges. Six experiments by them on a model (the prototype of one of the Conway tubes), one-sixth its size in all linear dimensions, showed, that by the judicious addition of about one ton of iron to a model beam, weighing originally only 5¼ tons, its breaking weight was increased from 35 to 56 tons. This model, 78 feet long, 4½ feet high, and 2½ feet wide, constructed of plate iron only 1-tenth inch thick, proved itself capable of bearing more than four times the weight of an ordinary train.

Peel Monuments.—*The Monument at Forfar.*—At Forfar the subscriptions for erecting the monument now exceed 220*l.*; and the committee have accepted a tender by a builder in Forfar to execute the work for 255*l.*, according to the design approved of. This design, according to Scotch papers, was selected from thirty submitted in competition, and is by Mr. Maclaren, of Dundee. "It is in the Greek style, and consists of eight columns, arranged on a cruciform plan, with four square piers at the intersections which support the body of the monument—rising above the columnar ordonnance, and terminating in a vase."——*The Leeds Monument.*—Statuettes and sketches have been received from many competitors, and the committee have selected four for reconsideration. If our information be correct, these are by Mr. W. Behnes, Mr. E. H. Bailey, R. A., Mr. Mark Noble, and Mr. R. Spence, of Rome.

The Restoration of Llandaff Cathedral.—Having lately had occasion to visit that int. resting spot, I was astonished on my approach to notice the unusual feature of a gable and cross, standing, to all appearance, as forming the end of a ruined nave, but still too new (even at the distance of half a mile) to bear out my first impression. On a nearer approach, however, it was soon accounted for by a flat roof (added by our "modern restorers"). Surely, out of the merest respect to external effect, a roof of the same pitch as the gable could have been constructed (however bent the architect might be on spoiling the effect of the new nave internally by adding a flat ceiling). The cathedral, one of the most beautiful, in its truly original character (but certainly not in the originality of taste displayed, in erecting a Grecian synagogue, with four urns on the four corners, within the ruins of "the long drawn aisle"), deserves that care, consideration, and judgment which a prompt application of the critical rod would perhaps induce the parties concerned to bestow upon it.—H. B.

Restoration of Beddington Church, Surrey.—This work has been conducted under the direction of Mr. Joseph Clarke, architect; and the contractor was Mr. Myers. It is expected that the cost will not be less than 3,000*l.* The architectural character of the ancient church has been preserved in the additions and restorations. The new north aisle, extending the whole length of the nave, and in the later Decorated style, is separated from the old church by a row of round columns, with carved capitals of foliage. The roof of the nave is of open timber work, with carving. The chancel arch has been rebuilt, and a hammer-beam roof placed upon the chancel. The old stalls have been restored to their original position, and the whole of the nave filled with benches, some of which have their ends filled with tracery. The whole of the woodwork is oak, and the columns, dressings, &c., are of Bath stone. The children of the National Schools have united to purchase two small windows of stained glass for the porch, and it is hoped that soon the remainder of the chancel windows will be filled with stained glass, and the organ re-placed under the tower arch. It is proposed to add a tower screen to part off the vestry. The tower arch and the other stonework on the inside have been cleared of whitewash, and restored with the plastering, &c., throughout. The floor of the church is laid with plain red and black tiles. The walls are flint, lined with brick, and the masonry is in Bath stone.

Huddersfield Mechanics' Institution.—The annual *soirée* of this institution was held in the Philosophical Hall, Huddersfield, on Thursday in last week. On the walls were a great many drawings by pupils, in ornamental, mechanical, architectural, and geographical instruction. According to the yearly report, the pupils now number 855, and there are 600 in constant attendance. There are 40 teachers, 12 of them paid and 28 gratuitous. The institution was said to be now in a more flourishing state than it has ever been. Mr. Cobden was present, and addressed the meeting, which was a crowded one, and attended by many influential residents of the district. In allusion to the heat of the room, Mr. Cobden said they could not but admire the architectural drawings displayed on the walls that evening, but really, if architects would for a while turn their attention from the various details of mouldings and other models of constructing buildings to the ventilating of rooms and building chimneys that would not smoke, it would be much better, for it was desirable to have rooms that they could breathe in, and rooms that in winter they could sit in comfortably, without being annoyed with smoke.

Lectures by Lord Carlisle.—The Earl of Carlisle has been setting a singular example of kind and manly feeling to the aristocratic circle in which he moves, by delivering a set course of lectures to the members of the Leeds Mechanics' Institute and Literary Society. The first lecture was on the poetry of Pope, and the next on his lordship's visit to America. Both lectures have been delivered, although they were postponed for some days by an incidental call to a Cabinet Council at Windsor.

The "Hutchisonized" Impermeable Stone.—This patent has been in Chancery, as some of our readers may be aware. Mr. Hutchison had purchased the benefit of the patent in this country from the inventor, Mr. C. Le Goux, of Bayeux, whose agent, Mr. F. Teychenné, of Cripplegate, had previously entered a caveat here, in his own name and that of his principal, and taken out the patent in his own name. Mr. Hutchison's right was resisted. Vice-Chancellor Bruce has just decided that Teychenné was only Le Goux's agent, and hence, subsequently, the agent or trustee of Mr. Hutchison so far as related to his interest in the letters patent. He was, therefore, ordered to deposit these in the Master's Office, and pay all the plaintiff's costs.

Leeds School of Design.—A committee appointed last week had a meeting at the school on Monday, which was attended by the mayor and other gentlemen. The opinion generally expressed by the meeting was, that it would be discreditable to the town to allow so valuable an institution to languish for want of the necessary funds, and it was therefore resolved that, to meet the existing debt of 250*l.*, and to raise an annual subscription of 150*l.*, a canvass be forthwith commenced. Messrs. W. Beckett, M.P., and J. G. Marshall, M.P., as well as the mayor, doubled their subscriptions. Subscriptions were also announced from Sir Thomas Beckett, Mrs. Beckett, Mr. E. Denison, M.P., &c.; and already about fifty new subscribers have been added to the list.

Patent-Law Reform.—The committee appointed by the council of the Society of Arts have unanimously affirmed the principles on which they were constituted, and have published their first report, from which it will be seen that our review of its probable nature was correct. It has been thought fit, however, to recommend that 5*l.* be the amount of the first year's payment for registration on taking out a patent, and not 1*l.* only. It has been, very properly we think, resolved that the present tribunals are insufficient for the trial of subjects of design and invention, and that there should be penalties for using the title of *patent* or *registration* where none has ever existed. The surplus profits of the proposed system of registration, it is thought, should be devoted to inventive purposes, not to the consolidated fund. Would it not be advisable to use it in assisting very poor inventors to pay the first year's instalment on hopeful or *approved* inventions?

The Iron Girder Bridge at London Bridge Station.—Sir John Rennie and Mr. Brunel, our readers will remember, pronounced against retaining the iron girder bridge over Joiner-street. The Railway Commissioners have since been moved in the matter, and the Government inspectors having inspected and tested it, they have determined, we understand, in favour of its strength and fitness for the structure; consequently it will remain.

Monument to Lord Jeffrey.—The committee at Edinburgh have decided on a work of sculpture, and have appointed a small sub-committee to see to the formation of a statue, which will probably be placed in the outer Parliament House. The subscriptions amount to 2,200*l.*; but a slight monument over the grave in Dean Cemetery is also spoken of.

Take care of your Cash.—The cashier of Mr. Fry, builder, St. John's Wood-terrace, lately had 119 sovereigns out of 120 abstracted from a bag of silver and gold coin in an omnibus, and his employer summoned him in the Court of Common Pleas to replace the money, lost, as was alleged, through negligence. The defence was, that the theft was not attributable to negligence, but to the dexterity of the thief. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, taking care to exonerate the unfortunate cashier from the slightest imputation on his character.

Mr. Robert Abraham, Architect.—On the 11th inst. a respectable and respected member of the architectural profession, Mr. Robert Abraham, F.S.A., departed this life, at the age of seventy-seven. Among his principal works may be mentioned the County Fire Office, in Regent-street; and Westminster new Bridewell.

Mend your Ways.—Do pray insert the following tenders delivered for making roads on the Westminster Freehold Land Society's Estate, at Kent Town, East Moulsey.—C.

J. Sinnott	£2,400	0	0
W. Colson	1,362	2	0
J. Capper	975	10	0
Leach Thornton	950	0	0
H. Wood	950	0	0
C. Bates	950	0	0
W. Boyd Smith	932	4	4
C. Mills	882	0	0
E. Murray	768	0	0
R. Baff	750	0	0
M. and E. Reddin	719	0	0
J. and S. Jarvis	698	0	0
H. Parks	695	10	0
M. R. Sutherland	695	0	0
T. Colborn	680	0	0
Hopcroft and Whatford	663	0	0
G. Gregory	650	0	0
J. Pearce	620	0	0
H. Alderton	600	0	0
J. Knight and Son	527	0	0

TENDERS

For sewers in Surrey and Kent, as advertised in the Builder of November 30, viz.—from Surrey Canal Bridge to Clapham-road, about two miles, 700 feet:—

Harrison	£24,700	0	0
Johnson	21,800	0	0
Crook	21,795	0	0
Diggle	20,500	0	0
M'Keon	20,168	0	0
Smith	19,995	0	0
Gregson	19,898	0	0
Hill	19,535	0	0
Dethick	18,777	0	0
Wrightson	18,750	0	0
Nowell	18,553	0	0
Humphreys and Thirst	17,500	0	0

For the foundations of a new church in Gordon-square, London: Messrs. Brandon and Ritchie, architects:—

Kelk	£2,081	0	0
Haynes and Co.	1,981	0	0
Lock and Nesham	1,875	0	0
Myers	1,720	0	0
Burton (accepted)	1,681	0	0

The quantities were furnished by Mr. Percy.

For Alterations and Repairs at New Office for the Builders', Architects', and Engineers Fire and Life Office:

Wallam	£1,129	0	0
Dore	1,099	0	0
Welles	1,080	0	0
Coleman	1,067	0	0
Taylor	964	0	0
Hopkins	913	0	0
Ryder (accepted)	864	0	0

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